

UPSTAIRS BULLETIN

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An Educational Group

Many admirable traits of yesteryear are sadly amiss today. The two that disturb me the most are "Loyalty" and "Faithfulness". Both traits are almost extinct today in business - in religion - in life in general and in the arts. Business is no longer loyal to employees, nor are employees faithful in doing their best work for their employers. It hurts more in the art world where one naturally expects more sensitivity and human understanding. Most large companies today "use" their dancers impersonally, as they would a screw driver or a bar of soap. With the slightest whim, they are discarded callously and there are critics who admire these actions.

In my youth, a homely philosopher born in Bloomington, Illinois, wrote daily for most papers and in Chicago especially. Elbert Hubbard (1865-1915) was a writer, editor, and printer, known for his homely common sense philosophy and his opinions on all manner of issues. Today, he might be considered trite -- but we would do well to go back and read him. He wend down in the Lusitania on May 7, 1915.

A quote on "loyalty" by Hubbard - - -
"If - you work for a man, in heaven's name work for him; speak well of him and stand by the institution he represents.

Remember - an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.

If - you must growl, condemn and eternally find fault, why - resign your position, heart's content -- but as long as you are part of the institution, do not condemn it. If you do, the first high wind that comes along will blow you away, and probably, you will never know why".

Elbert Hubbard

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In the Christmas mail a parent copied a quote from their son's greeting and the following beautiful message gives some hope that there still exists this old fashioned out-dated philosophy.

"I know one thing for sure that I've received more than my share of support from a family that really cares about each one of its members' professions. Our family is truly remarkable. For all its ups and downs, we are still together as a unit; helping one another through various stages of development. It's a beautiful feeling to know that your Dad and Mom and Brothers are not only your family, but are also among your closest and dearest friends. That is really something very special. Sure we have problems and sometimes very upsetting ones, but more important, we Love and we're not afraid to share it. Thank you Dad and thank you Mom, for your continued caring, not only for us, but for each other and for our friends."

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Pity the poor ballerina who suddenly finds herself without those brains backing her up who made her into the pretty vacuum. They seldom realize the importance in their lives of their teachers, directors and choreographers who made them into a "Trilby". Marrying wealth, as many of them do, only seems to make matters worse by bolstering their egos to ridiculous proportions. It is easy to make derogatory remarks about the talents and achievements of others, when one has had no experience themselves. What is worse is, their remarks are so often repeated by the dirt-hungry critics who often know little more.

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Shortly before we left for our holiday to Mexico City, NBC filmed two classes in the studio for the Jeanie Morris News Program on Channel 5. A day or so later, we were interviewed at the station and without any warning, it appeared for three days running during the holidays. Fortunately, it being on a news program, not a dance feature, it received a great captured audience. Friends called complimenting the show and for getting ahead of the two "ladies". Our compliments were for JEANIE MORRIS and LEONARD JENNINGS who edited the film. We did not see it until we returned. They did an amazing job, artistically and with great intelligence. Both the station and the school received many phone calls on the quality of the program.

All is set for the Teacher's Seminar, March 31st through April 11th with JOAN LAWSON from the Royal Ballet School in London. Already, at this writing, the registration is about half full for the working teachers. Some of the more advanced students will have an opportunity to work with Miss Lawson, as well as a boy's class - to be taken separately. Many teachers from the eastern states have been inquiring about the course as a result of the advertisement in the Dance Magazine.

The school spring concerts are later this year, because of this course and will be, as usual, at St. Alphonsus Athenaeum Theatre on May 9th, 10th and 11th. Rehearsals have been in progress since September. It is hoped that we will be able to present a surprise or two with alumni appearing at that time.

As an added feature for the Summer course, we will be having KIRSTEN RALOV from the Royal Danish Ballet School for the first two or three weeks. Miss Ralov is the authority on the Bournonville method of ballet and our more advanced students will have the opportunity of learning more of this method that has produced dancers like Ralov herself, Flemming Flindt, Kirsten Simone, Henning Kronstam, Erik Bruhn, and many others too numerous to count.

The local "Nutcracker" this year was not one of the good years. The group of imported dancers were no improvement on the local dancers in this annual presentation of banality. The night we attended, the only real female dancer was by all odds DOLORES LIPINSKI as the Sugar Plum. The children sadly needed EDNA McRAE'S firm discipline on stage. The idea of having the children imitate the soloists was the epitome of bad taste. The children from SC were: PAPO SERRANO, JOHN USRY, DAN WALKER, TOM PAGE, SCOTT PRANK and JENNIFER DOOLAS.

Of the many Christmas visitors - ROBIN BECKER and SUZETTE POMPEI were in. Suzette is happy dancing with a semi-modern group in Winnipeg. Robin is working for Elio Pomare, a black modern choreographer from Panama, who has two companies working around New York. FRUMETH HIRSH SIEGEL is in the process of getting a divorce and hopes to return to the Chicago area. We had a great hilarious visit with her upon our return from Mexico. JOHN SHARPE recently came back from Munich, Germany, where he had a guest teacher engagement. DAVID HOUGH will be here with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in February and is happy about dancing in several JOHN NEUMEIER ballets. NAOMI SORKIN was recovering from a back injury when the Feld Company was here. Everyone was sorry not to see her on stage but thrilled to see her in the studio. We had a dreadful shock when we realized the Graham group will be dancing the same nights as our appearance at the Athenaeum and we will not be able to see PEGGY LYMAN dance.

VANNESSA MERIA left a few weeks ago for Germany where she is trying to establish herself with some company there. When we last heard, she had already received an offer or two. JAY DEVLIN writes that he plays the part of a killer in the new Robert Redford film being shot in New York and is now in a two-character comedy in an off Broadway show. (No names, however). BARBARA MAC FARLANE'S mother died in an automobile accident on November 16th. Barbara was with SHEILA REILLY last summer at Interlochen, Michigan, and came to us from DOROTHY (Young) JOHNSON, now of Eustis, Florida. Dorothy's wedding was one of the very few we have ever attended,

(have to draw the line somewhere). Now, it's hard to believe she is a grandmother and mother of a large family. Last July, her daughter Nan passed away in her sleep after a hard spring. ANNA MARIE SAGI, in Tampa, Florida writes that JOSEPH, her husband, had a bad year and now has plastic tubes from his heart down into both legs (aorta aneurism). ANNA MARIE and her daughter SUSANNE were pupils in our school for years before going to Florida. PAULA & ALAN BAKER are back in our area and of all places - Milwaukee. Alan has a job on Channel 10. DONNA EHRLER RYAN recently announced the birth of their first child in Midland, Michigan. Our little MAGGIE SMITH is now among the married folk. After several years in a blackout, we hear that CHARLES SCHICK is in Hamburg, working with JOHN NEUMEIER. Probably one of the busiest girls has been DIANE KORF. An unexpected journey to Bangkok, Thailand, for her brother's marriage, interrupted her return to New York after three years on the road in "Rothschilds", Disney on Parade" and a siege in Las Vegas at the Americana Hotel. After her return to New York, she picked up a contract to play Gabriel in "Can-Can" for 15 weeks - - then a seven week tour with JACKIE WARNER in his "Stop the World" troupe.

KRIS KOCZUR has been busy in a number of productions, among them - "Cold Comfort" and "Seesaw" - she expects to be home for a visit soon. Here at home, both CINDY BENSON and CHRISTOPHER ADAMS have been enjoying their stint in "Carousel". Cindy is playing the part of Louise and rather ran away with the reviews.

From North Carolina, MARY CAROL COCKEY writes that JANE SHILLINGLAW has died suddenly during the holidays. Even more startling was the news that HELEN JONES had passed away a few months ago. Helen was with us for many summers and we had many of her students from time to time. The last

was JEANNE SUGGS in 1971 and the last we heard of her she had gone to Africa with a crew of students from Northwestern to do a photographic project. It is odd that none of Helen's pupils had thought to write us.

The following list of names are all members of the "where have they gone and what are they doing?" Club:

PHILLIP DANA	DAVID KROHN
KARL KAUFMAN	MARTY INGLE
TOM REED	JOHN AVENIA
JOE PRICE	NANCY McCLOUD

AND RICHARD KEMMLER

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FOR THE RECORD

The following list of Ballets choreographed by Stone and myself have been a fertile training ground for those pupils who have gone on into the profession as successful choreographers, directors, teachers and dancers. And, while these ballets have brought us no glory, living and working in a city in the hinterlands, they have been done for our own pleasure and for our more talented pupils.

Had many of these ballets had famous designers, expensive orchestrations, and more exposure in more appreciative areas than Chicago, things might have been different for us. When one knows that as \$250,000 is often spent on a single ballet, it will give you a better idea. The most we have ever spent on a single ballet was \$2,000 on "Alice in Wonderland" - the first ballet to this story in America. Other groups have done less successful productions of it and are still trying.

Ballets choreographed by Bentley Stone
Music by -

Mercure.....Satie
Pavanne.....Ravel
Mosaic.....Mozart
Reunion.....Aborn
Les Enfants Perdus.....Ravel
Foo Foo Raw.....Strauss
The Wall.....Auber
The Little Match Girl.....Gluck
Ballade.....Gottschalk
The Hound of HeavenVivaldi-Bach
Punch Drunk.....Aborn
Strange New Street.....Aborn
Les Biches.....Poulenc
L'Inconnue.....Poulenc
A Friend is Someone Who
likes you.....Delius
Eine Kleine NachtmusicMozart
To the Sun.....Tjorussen
Lilacs out of a Dead Land...Hadjidakis
Casey at the Bat.....Aborn
Sarabande.....Bach

Co-choreographed with Ruth Page

Frankie and Johnnie.....Moross
Guns and Castanets.....Moross
An American Pattern.....Moross

Co-choreographed with Walter Camryn

The Lonely Ones.....Aborn

Ballets choreographed by Walter Camryn
Music by -

Roundelay.....Ravel
Thunder in the Hills.....Foster
That Daring Young Man.....Period Music
Symphony in C.....Haydn
The Story of Ferdinand.....Bizet
The Lonesome Train.....Robinson
Peter and The Wolf.....Prokofieff
Krazy Kat.....Carpenter
Hansel and Gretel.....Hunperdinck
Alice in Wonderland.....Rossini
Trio Variations.....Schubert
Ditties.....Aborn
Dr. Eli Duffy.....Period Music
The Shooting of Dan McGrew...Period Music
Stage Struck.....Period Music
Like a Weeping Willow.....Curtis
In My Landscape.....Aborn
Frohlicher Reigen.....Clementi
In Whome I live Dying.....Schumann
For the Birds.....Haydn
A Sense of Wonder.....Schumann
Carnival Dances.....Mozart
Austrian Suite.....Schonberr
Buon Divertimento.....Boccherini
The Proper Playmate.....Gretchanninoff
The Bavarian Brawl.....Folk Music
Set of Three.....Sowerby, McDonald, Guion